GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4262
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
CONSUMPTION OF IODISED SALT
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Jogi Shri Ajit;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 51 percent people consume iodised salt in the country as reported in the Hindu dated March 30, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey regarding iodised salt intake among the people in the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the disease caused due to deficiency of iodine is still a threat in the country; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to create awareness amongst the people about the intake of iodised salt and to ensure availability of iodised salt to the poor people?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) As per National Family Health Survey NFHS III about 51% population of the country is consuming adequately iodated salt.The Government has already issued restrictions on the sale of non-iodised salt for direct human consumption under the PFA Act, 1954 with effect from 17th May 2006 Act/Rules in the entire country.However, there is no ban on the sale of salt for iodisation,iron fortification,preservation,Medicinal,animal and industrial use with proper label declarations.

(e) As per surveys conducted by Directorate General of Health Services,Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutes out of 524 districts surveyed covering all States/UTs, 263 districts are endemic to IDD where the prevalence is more than 10%. Thus no State/UT is free from IDD.

(f) Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP), the Government is promoting the use of iodised salt for prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorders. Various prototype publicity materials in the form of posters and pamphlets were prepared by different agencies and distributed to all States/UTs. Besides printing materials, extensive information education communication (IEC) activities are being conducted through Doordarshan, All India Radio, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity, State Health Directorates etc.